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publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Mark Hanna.

MARK HANNA is dead in Washington, and the whole country feels his loss. He is dead at an inopportune time, for never was there graver need of the services that he alone could render. He will be missed as his friend WILLIAM MCKIN-LEY has been missed—as one whose place there is none to fill.

A great and forceful figure is gone out of our public life, the best type of the American politician, the natural and indispensable product of our political system, the instrument, for good or evil, of its operation and its evolution. Since MARK HANNA left the activities of private life and emerged into the arena of practical politics he was distinctly a beneficent influence in the councils of his party and of the nation.

His was no nice hand in politics. There was work to be done; and only certain tools to do it with. The end to be attained was the all important thing. It concerned the common weal, it was the desirable, the essential thing, and there was only one way to reach it, and that way MARK HANNA followed with an energy that took no account of obstacles and recked nothing of interference. He prevailed. He always prevailed. In politics as in his previous or private career, he was the irresistible man because he was first of all the deadly earnest man combined with the purely practical man. Moreover, in all that he did he subordinated self. When he set out to achieve a political purpose he had nothing else at heart, no atom of ambition for himself. That his work landed him in the United States Senate was simply an incident, an inevitable and logical consequence of the disclosure of the man's power. That was where he differed from the visionary and the theorist in politics, working along the same lines, but working with no thought of anything but self.

His death was of a piece with what has become a household word in men's mouths-"Roosevelt luck." But it is only just to say that there are few who will more sincerely deplore, or who should more sincerely deplore, his taking off than will the President himself. He was the only man in his party who had the strength of will and the force of character, the unselfishness and the upon that party's headlong course. constitutional principles and patriotic

When Mr. ROOSEVELT succeeded to the generous impulse when he pledged him-Mckinley won his heart, and he proclaimed his stanch adherence to Mr. should adhere to that course. He kept his word. But when he found that Mr. ROOSEVELT had forgotten all about the promise so dramatically and so effectively uttered at Buffalo and had no other thought but to convert the whole power nomination, then MARK HANNA halted. He saw the Constitution relegated to limbo. the Bill of Rights ignored, lawlessness propitiated, class arrayed against class. unrest and distrust succeed where had been peace and confidence, and the patronage dispensed with an eve single for other things he saw; and in common with no longer adhered to Mr. ROOSEVELT. He thought he was not a safe man to be innone of the restraints upon him that the posed. And MARK HANNA held aloof.

never the same again. Of a robust and ent Administration. rugged temperament, MARK HANNA'S make-up, and he went his way as before attack. It is understood that Senator so far as concerned the world; but chas- GORMAN would have the Democratic tened and wounded sore within.

theory of our Government. That MARK of his anti-trust campaign.

great peril from his party and guided it into safer places than it can now discern.

Will the Zone of Hostilities Be Localized?

From the replies to Secretary HAY'S note, we are justified in believing that by an agreement between the Tokio and St. Petersburg Governments-an agreement to be reached through the representative of some third Power-the field of hostilities will be restricted to Manchuria and Corea and to the Japanese and Russian Empires. The importance of such a localization of the conflict is obvious. Not only should it avert an invasion of China, but it would minimize the chances of other Powers besides the original combatants being drawn into the struggle.

As it turns out that the phraseology of Mr. HAY's note was purposely made ambiguous, it is not surprising that some of the Governments to which it was addressed should have been perplexed by the term "administrative entity." So far as we know, the phrase has not been employed in treatises on international law; neither is it current in diplomacy. When, therefore, Mr. HAY requested other neutral Powers to join with the United States in expressing to the belligerents the hope that the area of hostilities would be limited as much as possible, and that "in all practicable ways the administrative entity of China should be respected by both parties," the question at once arose, Was Manchuria to be regarded as comprehended within China's "administrative entity?"

Reflection, however, must have shown that the inclusion of Manchuria in the inviolable region could not have been contemplated by our State Department. One of Japan's principal purposes in beginning the war was to force Russia to carry out her promise to evacutate Manchuria. It is clear on the face of things that Japan would no more agree to refrain from entering Manchuria for the purpose of grappling with the Russian forces stationed there than Russia, on her part, would consent not to invade Corea, which is to be the base of Japan's military operations. Mr. HAY shrewdly left it, however, to other neutral Powers, and to the belligerents, to define precisely what should be understood by China's "administrative entity." This some of them have done, pointing out that Manchuria, which, from the moment Port Arthur was attacked, became one of the seats of the war, could not be regarded as neutral territory.

We probably may assume, then, that and that, in its definite form, the territory the belligerents will be described as it will relieve the Pekin Government from well founded apprehensions, will also impose on it some obligations.

A Party in Search of a Platform.

Mr. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN in his Commoner has defied the "harmonizers" to construct a platform upon which all patriotism, to act as an effective brake sections of the Democratic party would consent to stand. If he means that no MARK HANNA had to be reckoned with. human ingenuity could devise a pro-No matter how inviting and grateful gramme which, while not intolerably the path, there stood that sturdy figure obnoxious to old-fashioned Democrats, in the way, a monument of fidelity to would yet be acceptable to the authors of three conspicuous planks in the Kansas City platform, he is undoubtedly right. Between the single gold standard and Presidency MARK HANNA gave him his the free coinage of silver at the ratio of ungrudging support. The President's 18 to 1 no compromise is conceivable. There is, again, no practicable way of self to carry out the policies of WILLIAM reconciling the anti-Imperialist demand for the evacuation of the Philippines with the belief that the islands ought to ROOSEVELT'S fortunes so long as he be retained, but that their inhabitants should enjoy the largest measure of selfgovernment of which they are capable. Neither would it be feasible to accommodate the views of those who want to take from the Federal Courts the right to issue injunctions, and of those who deem it of his great office to securing his own unwise to divest the Federal Judiciary of that time-honored function.

Suppose, however, that the platform adopted at St. Louis should contain no allusion to these three subjects. The silence would not, necessarily, mean reprobation. It would simply signify that, in the judgment of the St. Louis what it would secure. These and many convention, the three planks of the Kansas City platform which we have all patriotic Republicans, and all men of named ought not to be issues in the comsound principles and good sense, he ing campaign. Suppose the St. Louis deeply deplored them. And MARK HANNA platform should go on to formulate other issues, not raised in 1900 or 1896, issues as to which the position of most trusted with the duties of the President of of the Republican leaders is known, or the United States. He did not know what | can be foreseen, while, at the same time, he might not do when he entered upon the a considerable minority of the Republi-Presidency for another four years with can rank and file might welcome a summons to assume a different attitude. If necessity of being elected might impose such judicious tactics should be puror his consciousness of inherited obliga- sued at St. Louis, there seems to be no tions entail. He thought Mr. ROOSE- reason why Democrats should not waive VELT'S candidacy implied a condition their internal differences of opinion conof uncertainty, if not of actual peril, to cerning dead or slumbering questions which the country ought not to be ex- and present a united front to the party in power. Renouncing, for the present. Deeply attached as MARK HANNA was | the attempt to persuade the country to to WILLIAM MCKINLEY, not alone by the accept proposals repudiated four years bonds of political association but by the lago, the Democracy would confine itself ties of close personal affection, it was to a vehement attack upon Republican only natural that the tragedy at Buffalo | policies, and especially those which have should seriously affect him. He was occupied the foreground under the pres-

This is a plan which commends itself heart was never upon his sleeve. He to two of the Democratic leaders, who had nothing of the sentimental in his differ only as to the principal object of party let the tariff alone this summer, We doubt if he at any time in these and concentrate its batteries upon the later years harbored any serious ambition Republican candidate, and upon his toward the Presidency. He felt that he official conduct during his tenure of the was physically unequal to either the cam- Presidency. He would also attack Mr. paign or the duties of the office. If he ROOSEVELT for the insult levelled at a survived the former, he said, he could | soldier's memory by his failure to name not hope to live through or even ade- McClellan at Antietam, for his treatquately discharge the functions of the ment of Admiral SCHLEY, for his refusal latter. The one desire of his was that to recognize the services of Gen. MILES. the right man should be chosen for it, for the demoralization of the United a man morally and intellectually fitted States Army through his promotion of for so great a trust and one who by edu- Gen. Wood, for his exasperating attication, training and experience had de- tude toward the white men of the veloped a character in consonance with | South for his action in Panama, and for the Constitution and with the established | the alleged inefficiency and insincerity

HANNA, had he lived and had the strength | There is not one of these criticisms in been spared to him, would have fought | which Mr. BRYAN'S followers would not

would have won. He would have averted therefore, to believe that almost all Democrats might be united on a platform framed in pursuance of Mr. Gor-MAN'S ideas. That is to say, on one ground or another, every section of the Democratic party would enter with ardor into a personal campaign against Mr. ROOSEVELT.

In order to win, however, the Democrats will need this year, as they needed in 1892, to gain recruits from the Republican side. It is because he accepts this premise as indisputable and draws from t the logical deduction, that Mr. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS, the leader of the Democratic minority in the House of Representatives, is disposed to favor a platform different from that which Mr. GOR-MAN advocates. Events have convinced him that the President's policy in the Panama affair, whether it was right or wrong, is popular, and he fears that the expected decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Northern Securities case may render it difficult for Democrats to prove that Mr. ROOSEVELT'S opposition to the trusts has been either insincere or futile. While not ignoring, therefore, the issues that Senator GOR-MAN proposes, Mr. WILLIAMS would prefer to see them treated by the St. Louis convention, and throughout the campaign, as subordinate rather than primary, and to see the Democratic attack concentrated on the failure of the present Republican leaders to carry out the reciprocity and tariff revision policies of BLAINE and MCKINLEY.

It is Mr. WILLIAMS'S conviction that, with such a programme, his party could carry the war into Africa, and make tremendous inroads upon the Republican rank and file. He believes that by an appeal for reciprocity in general, and for reciprocity with Canada in particular, and by a simultaneous demand for an immediate revision of the tariff, such as would adapt it to present industrial and trade conditions, not only would all sections of the Democracy be welded together, but many Republicans would be von over in the States normally pivotal, while something like a political revolution might be hoped for in the Northwestern States.

Thus we see that Mr. BRYAN's chal-GORMAN and Mr. WILLIAMS. Each of them has suggested a platform which, were it to be adopted at St. Louis, few Democrats could find a pretext for rejecting.

An Argument for the Aldermen.

The comfort and health of the patrons of the street railways are of so little the desired agreement will be concluded, moment to the Aldermen of New York that arguments for the repeal of the to be respected as that of a neutral by "near-side" car-stop ordinance based on them are not likely to stir the Board China proper, which lies south of the to action. There is a reason for the Great Wall. Such an agreement, while repeal of the ordinance that is not related to the passengers, however, and it should be urged upon the Aldermen before they finally abandon the consideration of the subject.

The most expert motormen are not able always to control their cars exactly, and the result is that frequently the car slides over the cross walk and halfway across the street before it stops. In such cases the car effectively bars the cross street. It is easy to imagfire apparatus, an ambulance or a run- tian man." away team. The horses drawing the

necessary expense for repairs and new

live stock. It is not worth while to say that pasengers, firemen and the occupants of every vehicle using the streets are constantly endangered by the operation of the ordinance. The Aldermen care nothing for this. But they may be willing to listen to an argument for the repeal of the rule based upon the possifrom its enforcement.

Perhaps even the fact that the people from doing so in the name of economy.

Framed in a Smile of White.

In the Fortnightly Review Mr. ALFRED WALLACE publishes what he calls "An Unpublished Poem by EDGAR ALLAN POE," and tells its romantic history or legend. His elder brother, JOHN WAL-LACE, was a Forty-niner who died in California in 1895. A year or so before his death he sent ALFRED the poem in question in his own handwriting, with this inscription:

" Lines left by a wanderer at a wayside house is

lieu of cash for board and lodging one night:" Which is beautiful, Mr. WALLACE kept the poem in his scrap book because acteristics of PoE's style." Last September he discovered that a wayfarer's poetical currency was not included in the collected works of POE. Yet "it is in some respects superior to most, perhaps to all his similar productions." Why were these gifts hidden? Why did nobody but the wayside traveller have a copy of the treasure?

Mr. WALLACE concludes that his brother must have stayed at the house of the possessor of the manuscript. The initials "E. A. P." must be Por's. The circumstances under which the verses

were composed must have been these: Turning to the Memoir prefixed to Mr. J. H. INGRAM's edition of the Complete Poetical Works, we find it stated: 'In 1849 Pos revisited the South, and, amid the scenes and friends of his early life, passed some not altogether unpleasing time. At Richmond, Va., he again met his early love, ELMIRA, now a wealthy widow, and after a short renewed acquaintance was once more engaged to marry her.' Now this short period must have been one of intense relief from continual mental strain as well as of physical recuperation and enjoyment, and we can well imagine that during his rambles about the country he would enjoy working out his ideas of new and beautiful poetic forms. He was also an athlete, and we may be sure that he would delight in long rambles on foot when going from one friend's house to another; and nothing is more likely than that he should have had to ask for a night's lodging at some farmhouse or cottage, and, either from finding his pocket empty, or because his hospitable hosts would accept no payment, left with them the latest product of his muse as a memento of his visit.

possibly have been written only a few days before

height, Pon's host of the 'wayside house' may have been one of the many thousands who left the Eastern States for the land of gold, and may thus have carried away into such a long obscurity this

last outcome of the poet's genius." The "unpublished" poem is called Leonaine." It appears in the newspapers at regular intervals like the Mather letter about enslaving the Indians. Here is Mr. WALLACE'S version. We leave it to the Poephilists and scrapbook enthusaists to notice the variants,

if any: LEONAINE, angels named her, and they took the

Of the laughing stars and framed her, in a smile of And they made her hair of gloomy midnight and her eyes of bloomy Moonshine, and they brought her to me in a so emi

night. In a solemn night of summer, when my heart o Blossomed up to greet the comer, like a rose i

All foreboding that distressed me, I forgot as joy caressed me, Lying joy that caught and pressed me, in the arms

Only spake the little lisper in the angel tongue. Yet I, listening, heard the whisper- Songs are

only sung Here below that they may grieve you, tales are told you to deceive you, So must LEONAINE leave you while her love t

Then Gop smiled-and it was morning, matchless

Heaven's glory seemed adorning earth with its esteem: Every heart but mine seemed gifted with a volc

and supreme.

of prayer, and lifted. When my LEONAINE dr fted from me like a dream

Mr. WALLACE tells us " how the tranquillity and beauty of nature, which so rarely find expression in his [POE's] poems, seem to have produced their full effect upon him when he gave us the exquisite lines," the first two lines of the last stanza. Everybody to his taste. "Heaven's glory seemed adorning earth with its esteem" may strike some of us as savoring of COOGLER rather than of POE. Nor would a young lady or little lisper framed in a smile of white be attractive enge has been accepted by both Senator to everybody; for one thing, such a smile seems a trifle too wide and circumambient. But there is no disputing, etc.; and of the bloomy moonshine and moony bloomshine of mystification, there is no end. But who was the wanderer and what did he drink at the wayside inn?

The Hand and the Soap.

The Rev. CORTLAND MYERS of Brooklyn has added a new note to the concert. eulogy. Other panegyrists have hymned devoutly the military and civic virtues of Mr. ROOSEVELT, his head and his heart. The Rev. CORTLAND MYERS Brooklyn is particularly impressed by the President's hand. We printed yesterday Mr. MYERS's impressions of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S strenuous handshaking, but they are worth repeating:

" This last week when I was in his private office with him and had the honor-the supreme honorof shaking his hand-I do not think I have washed that hand with soap since. I do not think I will ever wash the memory off that hand. I would like to take that splendid grip with me out of this world into the next and have it as part of my resurrection life, for the man who shakes hands with THEODORE ine what will happen when a car so ROOSEVELT has shaken hands with a man, and more. situated lies in the course of a piece of He has shaken hands with a representative Chris-

vehicle will be killed and the apparatus the late Rev. Dr. E. WALPOLE WARREN is said to have expressed a perhaps Thus the city will be put to an un- humorous wish that the hand which had been shaken by that statesman and novelist might never be shaken by anybody else; never dishonored by any common grasp. Mr. MYERS goes a good deal further. He appears to hold that soap should not be applied to the hand which has had the supreme honor.

As at some White House receptions this honor is conferred upon five or six thousand hands in a day, it is scarcely bility of expense to the city resulting desirable that Mr. MYERS's plan of preserving memory by abstaining partially from the use of soap should be widely want it repealed would not prevent them | imitated. For one thing, the soap industry would suffer.

A less material and more original conception is his wish to take the grip into another world with him. Here Mr. Myers's sensations of gratitude and admiration reach the most subtle and ethereal form or spirit which admiration and gratitude can take.

The number of German names in the Russian naval list is remarkable; and this is proportionately true of the list of officers on board of Russian ships now at-the scene of conflict.

Whatever disapproval Mr. John F. SHAFROTH of Denver, Col., may have earned in the course of his checkered public career, his refusal to profit by the frauds it "appeared to have all the best char- that marked the election by which he was returned to the present Congress exhibits him as a most honorable gentleman. At the moment a precedent for Mr. SHAFROTH'S action does not come to mind. If he is the first man elected to Congress by fraud who refused to profit thereby, it was reserved for him to set a splendid example for future statesmen.

> It is a pleasure to commend a patriot and Gen. FRANCIS VINTON GREENE, by frustrating the President's plan to place him on the Panama Canal Commission has earned the thanks of all.

The Hon, ROBERT CHARLES DAVEY, Representative in Congress from the Second Louisiana district, is a man of statesmanlike and not ungenerous impulses. At present he is devoting considerable time and energy to an endeavor to reduce the national surplus. he holding, with many other publicists. that a fat treasury breeds many ills. Mr. DAVEY'S plan to keep the public treasure chest properly depleted is to grant a pension of \$12 a month to every nurse who was employed during the Spanish war by the Surgeon-General of the Army, or by any other authority recognized by the Secretary of

War. The Spanish war was short and was fought under conditions that entailed no remarkable hardships upon the nurses provided by the Government in field and camp. Service with the troops was not as com fortable, perhaps, as service in a modern hospital, but except in a few cases it involved no particular display of heroic selfsacrifice. In individual cases there may be excellent reasons why pensions should be granted to a nurse or to her family, but the vast majority of the nurses who cared for for to the last ditch. And Mark Hanna be likely to concur; and there is reason, his tragical end; and, as this was in the year 1849, the army's sick and wounded are not en-

at a time when the Californian gold fever was at its | titled to more than they have already

It is plain, however, that Mr. DAVEY regards the nurses as a means to an end It is not for their sake that he advocates this service pension. He wants to bleed the national strong box for the country's good.

RUSSIA AND JAPAN.

Further Speculations by an American

Familiar With the East. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: correspondent "An Orientalist," who speaks to-day of the war between Japan and Russia "An Orientalist," who speaks as portentous for Great Britain, bazards the assertion that "China and Japan will eventually combine to crush Russia, and in the course of years, when the present generation of the Asiatic Powers which will drive the Russians from Siberia and threaten the British Empire in India.

Is not a very different outcome more proba-I mean a combination between Russia and Japan to control the Orient.

The frequent assumption here, largely imported from England, is that early naval successes of Japan, as yet not made definite by any thoroughly trustworthy news, have assured the defeat of Russia; but it is questionable if, by prolonging the war, they will not rather have the effect of making it a drawn

We know from the experience of the Crimean War that Russia is a stubborn antagonist and can hold out long in the face of reverse and against the most powerful combination In that war, be it remembered, Russia fought against Turkey, England, France and Italy, or Sardinia. The declaration of war was made by Turkey Sept. 26, 1853. On Nov. 30 the Russian fleet destroyed the Turkish fleet at Sinope. In consequence of the interference of the warships of Western Powers in protecting Turkish vessels, Russia broke off diplomatic relations with those Powers Dec. 6, 1853. On March 28, 1854, England and France, having entered into an alliance with Turkey. declared war against Russia. Sebastopol was taken by the allied powers Sept. 8, 1855, after an investment of nearly one year. Preliminaries of peace were agreed to on Feb. 1, 1856, and at Paris, on March 30, peace was signed. It will be seen that Russia stood out against the powerful European combination for nearly cessful as it was Russia's strength, territorial and in military resources, has greatly increased. Unceasingly it has pursued its purpose of getting an open harbor, the objective now before it, and an objective which will be continuously before it until the neces-

I cite the experience of the Crimean War simply to show the power of military endurance in Russia. Against Japan alone is it

likely to be less persistent? Now to my point, and I speak as one familiar with Russian conditions in Europe and Asia and with the spirit of Russian officials in both Asia and Europe. If the war with Japan continues, which country is likely to feel its exhaustion the more? Will there not come a time when neither of the antagonists will see its advantage in continuing the conflict; and more especially Japan? When that time comes, and I expect confidently to see it, may no Japan be brought to understand that its profit, in the way of the gratification of its ambition to become the great Oriental leader, will be conduced more by the friendship than the enmity of Russia?

In other words, it seems to me not improbable that the issue of this war will be an understanding between Japan and Russia to divide between them the Oriental dominions, with consequences perhaps ultimately dangerous to the Eastern empire of Great Britain.

Russia could well assure to Japan security in its insular kingdom and a zone of extension in Corea, and perhaps China, if Japan could be led to see its advantage in not restraining the ambition and resolute purpose of Russia to gain an open 'Asiatic seaport. That is, might they not "pool their issues," so far as concerns Asia, to the great profit of both? Japan cannot hope to break down the power

of Russia. This war will be long and probably fruitless for it if it persists in fighting. In matic negotiation, and as this proceeds may not Russia be able to convince Japan that such a combination as that I have suggested is the most sensible and valuable issue to be at-

assure Japanese domination in the Orient but it cannot be put within the range of possibility. I look forward, then, to a settlement of the contest by an understanding which may be an agreement to dwell together in peace and amity as the two coordinate Oriental Powers Would not such a compact be likely to appeal to the keen-witted Japanese as affording the heat assurance of their national integrity. their material progress and the attainment of their consuming ambition of Asiatic do-AN AMERICAN. minion? NEW YORK, Feb. 15.

Definition of a Prince Among Americans. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sir: "What is Prince among Americans?" you ask. What ir, is he to-day but the Protector of our Third Know ye not that the Plutocracy, Estate? the nobility of this our country hath by mean of the deceitful and sinful secret ballot gained preponderance in the councils of our national parliament and that in consequence thereo trade both within and without the State bath taken on most alarming proportions, to the end that no honest man can calculate the gains thereof and not be overcome by feelings

of indignation and distress? Where turn we, then, for protection against this like invasion of our rights and privileges, if not to our good Prince, the foster-father of our liberties? Hath he not graciously sum-moned to his presence the provost of one of our unions and did not the Plutocrats tremble when he stretched forth his protecting arm?

There shall be writ in history no record grander than the Edict of Washington, 1902, confirming in our guilds and unions the exclusive right to labor and full enjoyment of the Strike Militant and the Boycott, barring the which many rebellious and obnoxious persons would find employment within the

State. Turn we, then, for consolation and support in our hour of need to him, our gracious Prince, whose ear remaineth open to our plaint and whose heart beats tenderly for us; and pray, we fervently that through his mor agreeable conception of the power and duties of his high office our Estate may gain marrellously in strength and influence to the end that we may hasten with the speed of our desire the glorious advent of the Amer NEW YORK, Feb. 15. ALFRED ORD.

The Scientific Hall of Fame.

Morse had concocted his alphabet.
"The beauty of it," he explained, "is that it make: ussian and Japanese names look exactly attke. With a yell of delight, the long-suffering public hailed it with acclaim.

Watt had discovered the principles of steam "It is governed by the law of the janitor," he aplained, "and he won't turn it on till he gets

Even modern science has found nothing to ad-Gallleo had invented the clock. "Hooray!" cried the Florentines, "now we can

Hastily they began to invent excuses to account to their wives for having lost their money The Tale of the Little Collectors.

10 little collectors standing in a line: One got a jolly, then there were nine. little collectors looking for balt One caught a fish story, then there were eight. Hittle collectors looking for heaven; One got tired, then there were seven. One got a bad check, then there were eix 6 little collectors very much alive; One got a touchdown, then there were five. 5 little collectors grouped about the door One got a swift kick, then there were four. 4 little collectors longing for a fee; One got a promise, then there were three One got a note, and then there were two. 2 little collectors kept on the run; One fell and broke his crown, then there was on I little collector too polite to dun; He-got PAID! and then there was none.

OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BELLIGERENTS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir! Whether or not the Washington news be true that the German Ambassador proposed to the President, at the White House, while the Secretary of State was not present, that the nations, subsequently agreed upon, should intervene between the belligerents and China regarding the delimitation and neutralization of the latter during the war, is not important except as it stimulates inquiry respecting the particular chestnut that Germany wished the President to lead neutral nations in pulling out of the fire for her. It is true, however, that if the language used by the German Ambassador were known by the public, the exact dimension and nature of the proposition would

be better understood than it now is. Interpreted in one way, it looks toward putting pressure on China to be not only impartial and neutral, but to be quiescent, relying on the guaranteeing nations for protection and safety against the belligerents; but interpreted in another way the pressure is to be put upon Russia and Japan not to invade China, and if either shall be driven into Chinese jurisdiction by stress, then to behave as if on the territory of the most powerful neutral in the world.

What was the motive and object of the German Government in presenting the proposition, and what was the motive and

object of our Government in adopting it? The cable has informed us that China has proclaimed neutrality in the presence of the two belligerents on the frontier of her "administrative entity." The rights and duties neither of a neutral Government nor of its subjects are fixed by the law of nations (if there is such a thing) beyond dispute. Germany invented, not long ago, "benevolent neutrality." Great Britain and the United States have not strenuously urged on other nations the adoption of the "three rules" of the Alabama treaty. Even if the things China may and may not do, as a neutral State, are fairly well agreed upon by the nations, there is still great controversy over the things it is permissible for individual Chinamen to do. Do the German Emperor and the American President refer to those matters?

The things which belligerents must do and abetain from doing, to a neutral are also pretty well defined in what is spoken of as international law, and in decisions by prize courts. Do the Emperor and President refer to them?

Toward whom, or what, is suspicion excited in the governing minds at Berlin and Washington?

Is Russia or Japan, or are both, suspected; and of what that the neutral Powers can and should prevent? Assume that a treaty between both of

the belligerents, the neutral and the guaranteeing nations, shall be concluded, signed, ratified and exchanged, which neutralizes China! If either of the belligerents, or the neutral, shall violate it.—what then? Japan shall be the violator, will either the United States or Great Britain go to war with her? Or if Russia shall invade China, will France or Germany oppose her?

What happened in the case of Luxemburg during the Franco-Prussian war? She had been a member of the German Bund, under the King of the Netherlands as titular sovereign. When the Bund had been dissolved by the victory of Prussia over Austria in 1866, Luxemburg did not wish to unite with Prussia in forming Germany. Napoleon and the King of the Netherlands arranged for her sale to France, but Prussia interposed and forbade the cession. England, Austria and Russia become involved in the dispute and the last named proposed an international conference of the Great Powers, which was accepted by France and Germany. The outcome was that Luxemburg was, on May 11, 1867, neutralized by Prussia, Great Britain, Russia, Austria and France, coupled with a condition in the lika ne toward all nations. When the Franco-Prussian war began, Prussia, on the request of Luxemburg, said she would respect the neutrality of Luxemburg as long as France did, and Luxemburg obeyed the neutralizing treaty. On Dec. 3, 1870, Prussla informed Luxemburg and all the signatory Powers that Luxemburg had violated her neutrality. Prussia specified the several inneutral acts, and declared that she no longer bound by the treaty and that Luxemburg would be treated as a responsible State pretending neutrality. She ceased

thereupon to be neutralized by common consent. She ferfeited neutralization, and became a neutral State like England. Prussia seceded from the guaranteeing Powers and from the treaty. None of the signatories did anything against Prussia. Russia said that Luxemburg must either invalidate the Prussian claim of unneutral doings or offer a satisfactory proposal for future prevention. There is a precedent in case either bellig-

erent charges China with unneutral conduct. That belligerent can tear up the neutralizing treaty, as Prussia did the Luxemburg treaty and as did Russia the unfair clause of the Black Sea convention of 1856.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. A Cure for Insomnia and Rheumatism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SITT In my opinion there is much truth in the article of to-day's Sun regarding feather beds as a cure for insomnia. When I was a child I firmly believed that God clothed chickens and birds with feathers to protec them from lightning, feathers being considered non conductor. Why that same God didn't pro-tect them from gunshot as well, I didn't know, and when I questioned an orthodox parent was told "I would know when I was older." I believe, however, in the efficacy of the feather

bed. If feathers are non-conductors, why not? Two years ago I read of a man who went to Europe o consult Dr. Brown-Sequard in regard to his rheu mattsm and insomnia. The doctor told him to "go home and insulate his bed, it was all he wanted." He came home and got four glass disher dared he was positively cured. As I had been for two years kept awake night

with what seemed a needle boring into the sole of my feet, I thought I'd try the insulating plan-not having a feather bed handy. The boring has ceased, and I am not troubled with insomnia any The bed must be away from the wall and the

lothing not allowed to touch the floor or wall. If this letter can be of any benefit to suffering human ity. I shall be only too glad to have written it. NEW YORK, Feb. 14. CAROLINE JONES.

In Memory of the Author of "Rock of Ages. From the London Express.

A brass tablet has been placed in the chancel of Farnham parish church to the memory of the Rev. Augustus Montagu Toplady, author of the hymn "Rock of Ages." who was a native of the The inscription states that the Rev. Augustus

M. Toplady was born Nov. 4, 1740, died in London Aug. 11, 1778, and was buried in Tottenham Court Chapel, London, Aug. 17, 1778. Toplady, who was a strong defender of Calvin-ism, a great controversialist, and author of many poems on sacred subjects, was at one time vicar of Broad Hembury, in Devonshire, and in 1775 preached in a chapet near Lelcester Fields, London.

Uncle Sam and the Heathen.

Hip, hip and hurrah for Japan-Whatever his creed, he's a man. Both hands in the hair Good luck to you, little Japan Fit try to keep out of this muss, While the little chap wallops the cuss But Pli de what I can

For the "Heathen" Japan:

A BIG TREES LIFE STORY.

Wonderful Recuperative Power of a Callfornia Giant of the Forest. From a letter by William Russel Dudley to Senator O. H. Platt.

A remarkable recuperative power follow-ing an injury was found after examination of the Sequoiss of the Converse Basin. The effects of certain tremendous forest fire occurring centuries ago are registered in the trunks of these trees and the record completely concealed by subsequent healthy growth. Among a number of similar cases the most instructive record of these ancient forest fires was observed in a tree of moderate size-about 15 feet in diameter-5 feet from

the ground. It was 270 feet in height and 2,171 years old. This tree when felled had an enormous surface burn on one side thirty feet in height and occupying eighteen feet of the circumference of the tree this was found to have en due to a fire occurring in A. D. 1797. The tree when cut, in 1900, had already oc cupied itself for 103 years in its efforts to repair this injury, its method being the ingrowing of the new tissue from each margin of the great black wound. When the tree was cut the records of three other fires were revealed. The history of the tree was as

was cut the records of three other fires were revealed. The history of the tree was as follows:

271 B. C. it began its existence.

The first year of the Christian era it was about four feet in diameter above the base.

245 A. D., at 516 years of age, occurred a burning on the trunk three feet wide. One hundred and five years were occupied in covering this wound with new tissue. For 1,108 years no further injuries were registered.

1441 A. D., at 1,712 years of age, the tree was burned a second time in two long grooves one and two feet wide, respectively. Each had its own system of repair.

One hundred and thirty-nine years of growth followed, including the time occupied by covering the wounds.

1580 A. D., at 1,851 years of age, occurred another fire, causing a burn on the trunk two feet wide, which took fifty-six years to cover with new tissue.

Two hundred and seventeen years of growth followed this burn.

1797 A. D., when the tree was 2,068 years old a temperious fire attacked it bursies.

followed this burn.

1797 A. D., when the tree was 2,068 years old, a tremendous fire attacked it, burning the great scar eighteen feet wide.

One hundred and three years, between 1797 and 1900, had enabled the tree to reduce the exposed area of the burn to about fourteen feet in width.

It is to be noted that in each of the three older burns there was a thin cavity occupied by the charcoal of burned surface, but the wounds were finally fully covered and the new tissue above was full, even, continuous, and showed no sign of distortion or of the old wound.

OUR INTERNAL COMMERCE.

Notable Features of the Story of 1908. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sire Some of the striking features of our internal com merce last year, reported by the Departmen of Commerce, through its Bureau of Statistics are the following: Coastwise traffic on the Great Lakes

amounted to 56,826,928 net tons received

compared with 54,074,729 tons in 1902. There were gains in grain and coal, but fron ore receipts declined from 27,898,000 gross tone in 1902 to 24,075,000 tons in 1908. Sault Ste. Marie Canal traffic reached a total of 84,674,437 net tons, of which 29,172,252 tons sed through the United States canal, and

5.502,185 tons through the Canadian canal. The average freight rate on wheat from Chicago to Buffalo was 1.41 cents per bushel, as against 1.51 cents in 1902, and 1.43 cents

as against 1.51 cents in 1902, and 1.43 cents in 1901.
San Francisco did poorly in grain receipts, reaching only 6,471,978 bushels of wheat, while its record the preceding year was 15,-118,735 bushels.
Flour shipments to the Orient from Portland, Tacoma and Seattle aggregated 1,495,018 barrels—an increase of 651,231 barrels over 1202. This large increase is very significant in view of present disturbances in the Far East.

in view of present disturbances in the Far East.

The Eric Canal carried 17,409,117 bushels of grain, exceeding the 1902 record by 1,816,483 bushels. The carriage rate for freight was 4 cents per bushel.

Trunk lines to the seaboard carried 82,029,000 bushels of grain from Chicago and Chicago points alone, averaging 1,548,000 bushels per week, an increase over 1902 of 115,000 bushels weakly. The same lines also carried 1,436,631 tons, or 27,106 tons each week, of provisions. This was 994 tons per week more than in 1902.

Kansas City is increasing in importance as wheat market, as the result of the rapid extension of our Southwestern wheat growing areas. Minneapolis mills drew heavily on this output, giving a north and south current to the domestic wheat trade, and competing with the Guif and Lake ports for control of traffic.

Anthractice coal shipments were 59,862,830 tons, against 81,200,940 tons in 1902, and 53,483,484 tons in 1901. Including 27,452,664 tons of bituminous, the Pennsylvanta Railroad east of Pittsburg and Eric hauled 40,587,153 tons, against 201

east of Pittsburg and Erie hauled 40,537,150

east of Pittsburg and Live points tons of coal.

The North Atlantic scaboard at five points (New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Portland) received 25, 250, 233 bushels of grain. The 1802 total was 240,725,185 bushels.

New Orleans received 28,875,669 bushels of grain in eleven months, and Galveston shipped 28,124,160 bushels in the year. Our Southern ports are fast growing in importance.

WALTER J. BALLERD.

BCHENECTADE, Feb. 12.

The Proposed Republican Building

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-SITE The letter of George Fentrick in THE SUR of Tuesday lan prompts me to express my approval. The wonder is that such a project was not started years are. From an economical standpoint alone it ought to be done. Such a building would not only be sem-sustaining, but would be a source of revenue besides. There should be no difficulty is raising such a fund, considering that there are so many wealthy Republicans in New Yorki besides. I be-Heve that the rank and file could be depended upon to do their share toward it. The Republican party certainly ought to have a home of im own in the metropolis. Phancis L. Suman NEW YORK, Feb. 13,

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN high time the Republican party of this city pro-vided a suitable home to accommodate the county committee instead of running around from pular to post looking for meeting places. This would obviate the paying of rent and could be made a paying investment, besides providing a general headquarters for the Republican party. I venture to say there are a hundred thousand Republicans who are willing to back this project

up with financial aid. GEORGE W. CUTREENT

His Debt to the Dutch and Others. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: While no one

would desire to belittle the influence of the Dutch H." rather overstates the case. The English cod of common law here was not materially altered by the Revolution. The colonists of Virginia and Carolina and the Pennsylvania Quakers were essentially from the British Isles, and I fail to see how the Pilgrim Fathers were Hollanders "in every-thing but birth." My grandfather was a German. but he became an American and affiliated us with the race. Thus, English is my language. My ideas and habits have been influe need by American and British writers, and I must admit that I have more in common with a broad Britisher than a German. In Europe I found, thanks to Scot Dickens, Ellot and other writers, England, Scot-land and Ireland were familiar haunts, and other places foreign countries. So while "American" is good enough for me, I think I understand in its broad sense what is meant by "Anglo-Saxon" i the mouth of a Celt like Carnegie.

NEW YORK, Feb. 15.

Obligations to Russia and England. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your various pro-Russian correspondents remember Russia's somewhat academic friendship to us forty years ago, but they seem to have no memory for the fact that England actively helped us in the last

Spanish war. And even in the civil war it was Queen Victoria who refused France's request to recognize the in dependence of the Confederates. NEW YORK, Feb. 15. ANOTHER UNION VETERAM.

Descont of the Family Hat in Cores.

A Philadelphia Hecord.

A Philadelphian who has been in Corea, over which the Russians and Japs are at war, ion enough to grow familiar with its customs, says on of the most unique and picturesque of them is the family hat, that descends from father to eldest son. This hat, made from the hair of the family ancestors, is a priceless possession, and so care

Up to Date.

The god of tender passion Is practising his autograph In quite a startling fashion.

For when the soldler lovers part From sweethearts tried and true, He signs as Cupidvitchskyoff, b. 18th Or Cupiduriu.

MCLANDBURGE AORGOT